

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01698 061456Z
ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2406
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AID FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID ELTN BC
SUBJECT: BOTZAM ROAD PAVING

REF: A) NAIROBI 8257 B) GABORONE 1535

1. THIS IS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION CONCERNING SUBJECT PROJECT IN LIGHT OF VICE PRESIDENT Q.K.J. MASIRE'S REFERENCE TO IT IN OUR MAY 18 MEETING (REF B). IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY ON RECORD THAT I TURNED ASIDE HIS REQUEST (AND SIMILAR FEELERS FROM OTHERS) FOR US ROLE IN BOTZAM PAVING PROJECT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS OUTLINED BELOW. I HAVE TOLD EEC REP DAVID ANDERSON OF THIS FEELING; AS NOTED SEPTEL, ANDERSON CONTINUES TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING AND WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR FULL EDF FUNDING, WHICH HE (PRIVATELY) BELIEVES IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.

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2. THE REASONS US SHOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO PAVING OF BOTZAM ROAD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AND ARE INTENDED AS FURTHER BACKGROUND AND SUPPLEMENT TO REF C.

A) THE EDF ASKED A YEAR AGO TO ASSUME THIS PROJECT WHICH SATISFIED THEIR CRITERIA OF "REGIONAL PROJECT" NECESSARY TO QUALIFY FOR EDF

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR WHICH NO OTHER PROJECT SEEMED PROMISING;

B) EEC REPS HAVE NEVER DENIED THAT, GIVEN HIGH-LEVEL EEC SUPPORT (E.G., MR. CHEYSSON) AND APPLICATION OF SUITABLE PRESSURE, THEY WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING \$6 MILLION;

C) THE DESIRABILITY OF CONCENTRATING US EFFORTS ON PRIORITY PROJECTS COMMENSURATE WITH THE US ROLE AND OUR POTENTIAL LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA (CLEARLY PREFERABLE TO USING A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF POSSIBLE TRANSPORT SECTOR FUNDS TO EDF PROJECT); AND

D) THE COMPLEXITY OF TRYING TO MERGE USAID EFFORTS WITH THOSE OF ANOTHER DONOR SUCH AS EDF, ESPECIALLY GIVEN OUR PROCEDURAL AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AS NOTED REF C. DISCOURAGES SUCH COLLABORATION.

3. WHILE AGREEING WITH REDSO OBJECTIVE (REF A, PARA 2), I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE AND IMPOLITIC FOR AID/W TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH EDF ON THIS SUBJECT. RATHER, WE SHOULD PURSUE OUR OWN NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND COMMENSURATE PROJECTS. IF EDF COMES TO US, WE SHOULD OUTLINE BACKGROUND AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (PARA 2, ABOVE) THAT LEAD US TO URGE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY LOOK TO THEIR OWN RESOURCES.

4. AS THINGS NOW STAND, WE DO NOT BELIEVE EDF OR GOB WILL RAISE THE QUESTION FURTHER WITH US. GIVEN GOB INVOLVEMENT, AND NEW HOPES AROUSED BY RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON TRANSPORT AND WATER PROJECTS, WE VERY MUCH DOUBT THE GOB WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A REQUEST. FOR US TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WOULD RISK SENDING WRONG SIGNALS TO THEM AND TO OTHERS.
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